

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

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DETROIT CHAPTER 9 MEDIATION TEAM ANNOUNCED

Chief Judge Gerald Rosen today announced the members of the primary team of mediators who will work with him on the mediation of major issues in the Detroit bankruptcy, the largest such case in our nation's history. Chief Judge Rosen, who was appointed as the lead facilitative mediator by presiding Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes, said, "We are very fortunate indeed that some of the leading federal judges and private mediators from Michigan and around the nation have agreed to assist Judge Rhodes and the parties in attempting to resolve the many challenging issues confronting Detroit in this case. This initial team brings a wealth of widely recognized experience and expertise to the mediation process that will provide the parties with a confidential, neutral forum to discuss their respective positions. There are literally thousands of claims and issues in the case, and the team's initial work will focus on the major issues at the outset of the case. As the case develops, additional mediators may be asked to assist us with other parties and issues. I look forward to working with the mediation team and the parties in forging a facilitative process that will provide the best opportunity for the successful resolution of as many disputes as possible, so that Detroit and our region can move forward to realize their great potential." The initial meeting of the mediation team with the major parties will be held on September 17, 2013.

Joining Chief Judge Rosen on this initial mediation team will be:

- U. S. District Judge Victoria Roberts was appointed to the Bench of the Eastern District of Michigan by President William J. Clinton in 1998. She is a native Detroitter and a Past President of the State Bar of Michigan, which has conferred on Judge Roberts its two highest honors. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Roberts was in private practice and served as an Assistant United States Attorney. She now is an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan Law School. Judge Roberts has extensive experience facilitating, arbitrating and mediating cases.

-- U. S. Bankruptcy Judge Elizabeth Perris of the District of Oregon, is a bankruptcy judge of almost 30 years experience, has served two terms on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel (BAP) for the 9th Circuit, as well as a bankruptcy trustee, and has served as the Judicial Mediator in the municipal bankruptcies of Vallejo, Stockton and Mammoth Lakes, California. Judge Perris has taught at Lewis and Clark and Willamette University Law Schools. Judge Perris is the author and co-author of a number of respected bankruptcy publications and was awarded the 2012 Distinguished Service Award by the Bankruptcy Inn Alliance of the American Inns of Court. Judge Perris is widely recognized for her expertise in municipal bankruptcies as well as for her mediation skills.

-- Senior U.S. District Judge Wiley Daniel of the District of Colorado, was appointed to the Bench in 1995 by President William J. Clinton, has served as Chief Judge of the Colorado Federal District Court, President of the Colorado Bar Association and President of the Federal Judges Association. Judge Daniel is a former resident of the Detroit area, having practiced law and taught law school in Detroit for six years.

-- Former U.S. Bankruptcy and U. S. District Judge David Coar was appointed to the Bench of the Northern District of Illinois by President William J. Clinton in 1994, after serving as a U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee and a federal Bankruptcy Judge in Chicago, and has been a law professor and Associate Dean of DePaul Law School (Chicago) and a Sergeant in the U. S. Marine Corps. Judge Coar left the federal bench in 2010 and has been a private mediator on large high profile cases, including the Mammoth Lakes, California municipal bankruptcy.

-- Eugene Driker, a native Detroitter and co-founder of the Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker Detroit law firm, is widely recognized as a dean of the Michigan bar and a civic leader. Mr. Driker has litigated major business and commercial cases for over 50 years in the state and federal courts, and has represented numerous high profile public and private figures and entities. He is considered one of the leading mediators in Michigan, having been appointed by both state and federal judges, as well as lawyers from all over the country, to assist in the resolution of over 150 cases. Mr. Driker will be awarded the Champion of Justice Award by the State Bar of Michigan next month.